

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11270 231138Z

11

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCS-03

SCA-01 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 (ISO) W
----- 094917

Z 231114Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6293

AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS FLASH

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH

AMEMBASSY DANASCUS FLASH

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM FLASH

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI FLASH

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN FALSH

DIA FLASH

FAA WASHDC FLASH

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG

SUBJECT: EYGPT AIR HIJACKING

1. THIS MORNING AT APPROXIMATELY 0800 EGYPT AIRLINES
FLIGHT NO 331 TO ASWAN (BOEING 737) WAS HI-JACKED
BY WHAT MFA TELLS US IS GROUP OF SEVEN LIBYANS, ALGERIANS
AND PALESTINAINS, WHO
BOARDED IN CAIRO. FLIGHT WAS FULLY LOADED AS IT USUALLY IS WITH
TOURISTS. THERE COULD BE AMERICANS ABOARD, AND WE ARE
ATTEMPTING OBTAIN COPY OF MANIFEST.
(TWA MANAGER ADVISE THAT, BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE THERE ARE USUALLY
ANYWHERE FROM FORTY TO FIFTY AMERICAN TOURISTS,
ON THAT FLIGHT.)

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11270 231138Z

THUS FAR, EGYPT AIR CAIRO HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE ONE. EGYPT AIR AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD ONE MESSAGE FROM THE PILOT, WHO INDICATED HI-JACKERS WISHED PLANE TO PROCEED TO LIBYA, PILOT TOLD THEM HE HAD INSUFFICIENT FUEL AND WAS ALLOWED LAND AT LUXOR.

2. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CAIRO AND LUXOR ARE EXTREMELY BAD, BUT WE UNDERSTAND EGYPTIAN MILITARY SURROUNDED NI-JACKED AIRCRAFT WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT." MILITARY REPORTEDLY WANT TO BOARD IT WITH FORCE. EGYPT AIR AUTHORITIES HAVE REQUESTED THEM NOT TO DO SO. EGYPT AIR HAS DISPATCHED SPECIAL AIRCRAFT, WITH GOE DIGNITARIES AND DECISION MAKING PEOPLE ABOARD, INCLUDING GENERAL SALAAF RIFAAT, DIRECTOR OF CAIRO AIRPORT SECURITY, PRESUMABLY TO ASSESS SITUATION AND TRY TO NEGOTIATE. SPECIAL AIRCRAFT SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED LUXOR ABOUT 1100 LOCAL. MFA ADVISES IT IS TRYING TO DETERMINE IDENTIFIES OF HIJACKERS. IT SUSPECTS HIJACKERING IS LIBYAN INSTIGATED.

3. WE ARE SEEKING OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION.
EILTS

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NNN

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